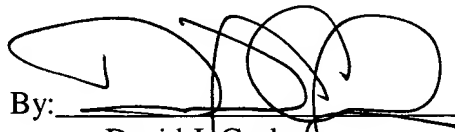


REMARKS

Applicant cancelled claims 9 and 17 above to streamline the appeal of this application. The rejections of claims 9 and 17 are not being appealed at this time and those claims are being cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims containing the subject matter of claims 9 and 17 at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

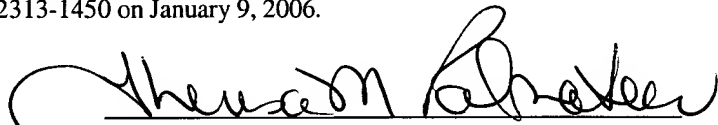
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Dated: January 9, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 9, 2006.


Theresa M. Palmateer

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